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KABUKI PLAY

"THE ENLARGED STORY OF  
THE MOON AND RAIN"

(Zoho-Ugetsu-Monogatari)

Written by Kido Okamoto

TWO ACTS



TO BE PRESENTED BY KIKUGORO, KOSHIRO  
& SOJURO JOINT TROUPE AT THE SHIMBASHI-  
EMBUJO THEATER FROM APRIL 2ND  
TO APRIL , '48.



# SYNOPSIS:

Katsushiro, a resident of Mama Village in Shimofusa Province, went on a business trip to the Kyoto-Osaka district leaving his wife at home. However, Kyoto as well as Naniwa being a battle-field, he could not settle down there, so after all got to Akamagasaki, Nagato Province after a long journey. There he spent seven years in pleasure-seeking peacefully, when a war broke out even in the place and saw lovers dying in his very presence, so he came to long for his native place and determined to return to his wife.

On the other hand, however, Mama Village could not escape from the ravages of several years' war, either and its inhabitants dispersed. As for Katsushiko's return, but she succumbed to her illness. In her last hours, she asked her neighbors to plant a white Chinese bell-flower beside her grave after her death.

Without knowing his wife's death, however, Katsushiro met with the ghost of his beloved wife at Mama Village and heard from the ghost of a story in connection with a white Chinese bell-flower.

After all he came to know that it was the spectre of his deceased wife and grieved over her death.

CHARACTERS:

Silk Merchant Katsushiro;

Katsushiro's Wife Miyagi;

Ouchi's Son Ryuomaru;

Ouchi's Retainer Shichiro Hagino;

" Helma Yamaguchi;

Page Inuwaka: Ouchi's Waiting-Maid Koyuki;

Baggage-Man Jusuke; Villager Saichi of Mama;

Saichi's Daughter O-aki;

Courtesan of Akama Irie; Courtesan of Akama Namiji;

" Karimo; " Ischagi;

" Shiranuki; " Yashima;

" Chidori;

Waitress of Tea-House; Travelling Married Woman;

Woman's Daughter.



PART ONE

March 24th at the end of the Ashikaga Era;  
the beach of Akamagasaki, Nagato Province.

On the right side from the front is seen a hill with the Amedaji Temple on it. On the left side from the center is seen the Beach of Ozato beyond the sea.

On the left there is a tea-house covered with bamboo-blinds; at a suitable place there are placed two benches; and there are standing cherry-trees in spots.

A married woman and her daughter who are prepared for a journey are seated on one of the benches.

A waitress of the tea-house pour some tea into the cups and offer the cups of tea to them.

Waitress: Won't you have some tea?

Daughter: It seems this place is thronged with people.  
Will anything take place here?

Waitress: No wonder you're surprised at the crowd of people, as you're travellers, but today is a festival for this place.

Woman: Oh, today is march 24th. Well, then, is the festival of Akamagasaki of which we've heard being observed today?

Waitress: If you had come here a little earlier, you could have seen the procession of the courtesans.



Daughter: Oh, I'm sorry.

(Both of them are taking the tea.

From the left comes out Katsushiro,  
a silk merchant of Shimofusa Province,  
aged 32-3; he seems to have stayed in this  
place for some time and wears his ordinary  
clothes though he is on a tour.)

Waitress: Please take a rest.

Katsushiro: You're always doing a prosperous business,  
I think.

(Katsushiro also takes a seat on the bench.)

The weather has been fine since this morning and  
good for the festival of the Taira family,  
a feature of this place.

(To the woman and her daughter)

Did you also see the procession?

Wife: We were speaking of it just now, but, sorry  
to say, missed it by a second.

Katsushi: They have already worshipped at the  
temple, but on their way back they may  
pass here by twos and threes.

Daughter: What kind of festival is the festival of the  
Taira family?

Katsushi: I'm also a traveller, so don't know about it in  
detail. However, so far as I know, about  
three hundred years ago the Taira family  
died out on Dannoura Bay in this place, so



on the very day of their death the festival is observed every year, I hear.

Moreover, on the day especially courtesans put on ceremonial dresses and scarlet pleated skirts and visit the temple like so many court ladies in old days, they say.

Well, in connection with it, I've a funny story to tell you. When I came to this place for the first time last October and visited a brothel, a courtesan stepped into my room and took a seat of honor without greeting me, so I felt angry with her for a time, but later on I was told by her that a courtesan should behave herself like a court lady and look down upon such a commoner as me. As the proverb goes, "Do at Rome as the Romans do." Every place has its peculiar custom, I think. Ha, ha, ha, ha.

(Katsushiro tells the story to them glibly, so all of them laugh.)

Woman:

What an amusing man you are! Judging from your appearance and accent, I don't think you're a man of the Kyoto-Osaka district. Were you born in Kamakura or its vicinity?



Katsushi: As you've guessed, I'll admit I was brought up in the Kanto district, but am a man of Mama Village, Katsushika County, Shimofusa Province, a long way from Kamakura. Although my native place is familiar to poets, it's an out-of-the way village. Please drop in at my house when you pass the village. However, I'm an itinerant merchant, so don't know when I'll go back to my house. Well, will you please regard this place as my house and take some tea at leisure?

Daughter: What an amusing thing you say!

Woman: Since you're travelling from one place to another in such a way, you must be having a jolly time. (Looks up at the sky.) Well, let's go before it gets dark, shall we? (The married woman bows to Katsushiro, goes to the entrance to the shop and tips the waitress.)



Waitress: Thank you very much.

Please drop in at this house again on your way back.

Woman: Good-bye.

Now, come on.

Daughter: Very well.

(Both of them leave for the right.

Katsushiro sees them off.)

Katsushi: I took interest in my talk and did so much talking glibly that they seemed to have amazed at me.

Ha, ha, ha, ha.

(Looks down upon the sea.)

Oh, the spring sea is calm and clear.

Among the blue waves are seen some white sails and heard the notes of plovers.

If one stays long in such a place, one will forget one's cares and feel care-free, I should say.

(The waitress pours some tea into a cup and offers it to Katsushiro, who drinks it and keeps on gazing at the sea scenery. From the right Shichiro Hagino, a retainer of Ouchi, aged 22-3, wearing elegant clothes and a sedge-hat comes out seizing Jusuke, a baggage-man, by the neck, followed by a page.)



- Jusuke: Ah, please forgive me.
- Shichiro: On the street you tread<sup>d</sup> on my foot, but didn't apologize to me.  
You see, I'm a warrior. What a rude guy you are!
- Katsushi: Oh, you're Jusuke, aren't you?
- J: Oh, Master, please apologize to this warrior for my rudeness.  
(Katsushiro comes forward timidly.)
- K: He's my servant. I don't know what a careless thing he did, but I'll apologize to you as you like on his behalf, so please forgive him.
- S: Well, then, is this guy your follower?  
I wanted to see the procession of the courtesans, so I hid my face with the sedge-hat and visited the Amidaji Temple, but on my way back this guy came along totteringly and treaded on my foot with his muddy foot. Moreover, he didn't apologize to me for his rudeness, but tried to run off.  
He was so rude that I -----.
- J: I was fascinated by the beautiful courtesans going there or coming back when by mistake I treaded on your sandal, but I ran off without apologizing to you. I'll admit I was very rude. Please forgive me.



K: Please forgive him.

S: Alright, alright.

Now that you've also apologized to me for his rudeness as his <sup>master</sup> ~~servant~~, I'll forgive him despite his rudeness of today.

(Seizes Jusuke by the neck and thrusts him away when Jusuke totters and is about to fall, so Katsushiro holds him back in a flurry.)

K: Thank you for your kindness.

J: Thank you very much.

(Both of them express their thanks to Shichiro, who takes off his sedge-hat and sits down on the bench.)

Waitress: Welcome.

(The waitress pours some tea into a cup and offers it to Shichiro, who looks around using his <sup>f</sup>an calmly.)

S: Well, Inumaka. (Looks back at the page.)  
Today you've seen a beautiful thing, haven't you?

Page: The place was more lively than we heard of it.

K: Well, then, did you also see the procession of the courtesans?



S: Oh, it was very picturesque.  
Their beauty at dusk in spring could be  
compared to so many cherry-blossoms.  
A warrior as I am, I was struck by their beauty.  
Ha, ha, ha, ha.

K: Very likely.  
Even such an honorable warrior as you  
admitted it, so no wonder we are struck  
by their beauty and inclined to make  
merry. As for me, I'm an itinerant  
silk merchant of Ashikaga in the Kanto district.  
Having heard that Kyoto is a good place,  
I replenished my stock of goods and went  
all the way to the City with this man, but  
to my great disappointment all the  
streets and lanes of the city were dilapidated  
in spite of its honor of the Imperial capital.  
What do you say, Jusube?

J: A war hadn't yet ceased to break out there,  
so we feared that we might be involved in  
such a trouble and went down to Naniwa (now  
Osaka) for our life, but the place was also near the  
City, so we couldn't do so much business  
there and travelled from one place to another  
in Chugoku Province.



- K: Meanwhile, having heard that Nagato of Suwa Province is under the jurisdiction of Mr. Ouchi, there is no likelihood of any war in the place and it enjoys its prosperity as well as the City, after all we came to this place when we were very much astonished to see a great many fine houses, the good customs of its people, its busy streets and the prosperity of the brothels though it's at the end of Chugoku Province. Figuratively speaking, we moved from Hell to Heaven. Here our merchandise sold like hot-cake and there're a great many places for amusement here, so we forgot to return home and have long been staying here though about half a year has passed since last October.
- J: Thanks to our staying in this place like paradise, we could enjoy our life for the first time in our life.
- S: Ha, ha, ha. Do you think this place is like paradise? This place seems to be so good a place <sup>to</sup> people from another province. (Smiles a little proudly.)



K: In our opinion, this place enjoys its prosperity better than Kyo and Naniwa and it's due to the influence of Mr. Ouchi, lord of this place, I should say.

S: I'm a retainer of the House of Ouchi, but nowadays no lord can be pitted against our lord in wealth and power throughout Shikoku and Kyushu Provinces to say nothing of Chugoku province, I should say.

waitress: (Looks at the right side.) Oh, look! Several courtesans on their way back from the festival are coming here altogether.

S: Right you are. A group of courtesans are coming here altogether.

Page: Oh, Irie-dono is also seen among them.

S: Can we see Irie, eh?  
(Unintentionally rises to his feet.)

J: Oh, we can see Namiji-dono, as well.

K: Is Namiji coming, eh?

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

(Katsushiro also rises to his feet unconsciously and starts going to the right when he bumps against Shichiro and they exchange glances with each other.)



Both: Ha, ha, ha, ha.  
(From the right Irie, Namiji,  
Kariho, Isohagi, Shiranui and Yatsushima --  
six courtesans of Akama --- come out  
dressed as court ladies, followed by Chidori,  
an errand-girl.)

Irie: Hullo, ~~Shinshiro-dono~~ Shichiro-dono.  
Have you been here?

S: I've long been waiting for your coming back  
here.

Kariho: Don't tell a lie.  
(Matsushiro stealthily beckons to Namiji,  
who nods and comes beside him.  
Isohagi and Yashima also come in succession.)

Namiji: Have you ~~also~~ been waiting for us here?

K: Oh, course I've been waiting for you here about  
an hour.

N: Today we've come out in such disguise so as to  
let you see us.

S: Well, a courtesan has a trick up her sleeve,  
so you mustn't be off your guard, Commoner.



- K: Oh, don't worry. No favorite woman of mine would play such a trick on me.
- Kariho: Having known your true mind, Namiji-san speak only of you day in day out.
- J: No kidding.
- K: Tut, tut, it's none of your business. Shut up.
- S: Oh, sounds interesting. There's no discrepancy between warriors and commoners in pleasure-seeking at a red-light district. You seem to be lighted-hearted men. Well, what do you say to drinking with me tonight?
- J: Oh, thank you very much.
- K: Oh, don't push yourself forward. Behave yourself. Thank you for your kind offer, but we've got a previous engagement.
- N: Well, this gentleman has promised me to call on me tonight, so I won't let him go to any other place.
- K: You see, I'm very popular with women.
- Irie: (To Shichiro)  
Well, ~~Shichiro-dono~~ Shichiro-dono, are you going to keep silent though he's talked as he likes?



Kariho: You'd better tell of your ~~taxxxxxx~~  
love-story with Irie-san not to yield to him.

Irie: If you're argued down by a stranger to  
this place, it'll be a discredit to you  
as a warrior of this province.

S: Oh, take it easy.  
Everybody knows my elegance. What do you say,  
Inuwaka?

Page: Well, what are the famous things in this  
place, Akamagasaki? Firstly, the mausoleum  
of the Amidaji Temple is mentioned,  
secondly the Hachimangu Shrine of Kumano  
and thirdly your spree in the red-light district.

K: Oh, you've said such an interesting thing.  
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.

Courtesans: Ha, ha, ha, ha.  
(All of them laugh. The wind starts blowing.  
when the petals of the cherry-blossoms fall.)

Page: Look, sir! The petals of the cherry  
blossoms are falling.

S: Well, the evening wind has become chilly.

Irie: Indeed the wind has become cold.

Namiji: Although the daytime in spring is long, it's  
already getting dark.

Kariho: The red-light district will soon be lighted,  
I think.



Isehagi: Well, shall we just precede them?

Shiranui: Shichiro-dono, be sure to come to us later on, please.

Yashima: Katsuhiko-dono, we'll also wait for you there.

Nahiji: (To Katsuhiko) Let's enjoy ourselves by doing something interesting tonight, shall we?

K: Okay, okay. Let's make merry to our satisfaction.

Kariho: Then, we'll just precede you.

Six Courtesans: Good-bye.  
(The six courtesans walk off to the left, followed by the errand-girl.)

Page: Sir, won't you go there now?

S: Would you also like to go to the red-light district? Ha, ha, ha, ha.  
(Shichiro is about to rise to his feet quietly when Ouchi's retainer Heima Yamaguchi wearing a coat-of-mail with a straw raincoat over it comes out.)

Heima: Oh, Shichiro-dono, have you been here?

S: You're Heima Yamaguchi, aren't you?



What have you come here in such a grave  
guise for?

H: Now isn't time to take things easy.  
Don't you know the trouble of our lord's  
house?

S: What is it, eh?

H: Priest To-gon-No-Kami-Harukata suddenly  
plotted to rebel against our lord and  
at the sixth time on the evening of the  
day before yesterday attacked the  
mansion of Yamaguchi with his force.

S: Did To-Harukata rebel against our lord,  
eh? ----- And what became of our lord?

H: There were only a little over sixty  
men on duty at the mansion, so they  
tried to ward off the enemy desperately,  
but the enemy was a large force and  
besides, set fire on the mansion.  
Thereupon they couldn't resist the  
enemy even for half an hour though  
they shot all their arrows and our  
lord killed himself in the smoke.

S: And how about his lady and child?



H: Both of them are missing, so we're stealthily looking for them in every likely place in this way. Then, I must be going now, as I'm in a hurry. Good-bye.

(Saying so, Heima leaves hurriedly. Shichiro sees him off in blank amazement.)

S: Unexpectedly such catastrophe of our lord's house happened.

S: Now that the rebels have destroyed our lord's house, we shall have no house to return to.

K: What a serious matter has happened!

S: Before I become sober after drinking at the red-light district, suddenly. I've been awakened from my dream of pleasure.

K: I've been off my guard thinking that I'm staying in Heaven, but this place has turned out to be Hell just the same. (Both Shichiro and Katsushiro are absent-minded.)



By the wind the petals of the cherry-blossoms again fall.)

Jusuke:

The change from love into heartlessness is very rapid.

(Jusuke heaves a sigh. Katsushiro also heaves a sigh and folds his arms.)

S:

Anyway there is no time to lose, so let's go back to our house, make ready for it, turn back to Yamaguchi first of all and watch the development of events. Come on, Inuwaka. Commoner, I'll see you again if I can live out. (Shichiro leaves hurriedly for the right with the page. Katsushiro again keeps silent and folds his arms.)

J:

The House of Onchi who had wielded his power throughout Chugoku, Shikoku and Kyushu Provinces was easily destroyed overnight.

Well, Sir, what are you thinking about absent-mindedly?

(Katsushiro makes no reply, but is still lost in thought.)



J: Excuse me, Sir.

K: Oh, what a noisy guy you are!  
Hearing the event, I've suddenly become unpleasant.

J: It's annoying. Well, then, you'd better enter the inner room of this tea-house and drink some stimulant.  
(Jusuke and the waitress of the tea-house enter the inner room of the tea-house with Katsushiro. From the right Koyuki, a waiting-maid of the House of Ouchi, dressed in a travelling outfit, carrying a sedge-hat in her hand and wearing a dagger at side comes out protecting Ryuomaru, Ouchi's son.)

Koyuki: Now that we've come here all the way, no pursuer will be here. Please take a rest here for a while.

(Koyuki helps Ryuomaru take a seat on the bench.)

Ryuo: What's the name of this place?

Ko: Here is Akamagasaki. Although we're living in troubled times, he conquered his master whom he owed a great deal



through successive generations and ruled over the province in his master's place. He is a brute inferior to a beast.

(From the left comes out Heima Yamaguchi stealthily.)

Heima: Keyuki-dono, I didn't expect to see you here. And how about his lady?

Ko: Sorry to say, when we escaped from the mansion and were running off, his lady was killed by a stray arrow.

H: Well, then, did his lady die?

And what's your destination?

Ko: Although we've no definite destination, anyway we shall go to that place.

H: Do you mean Kyushu? Oh, it's dangerous for you to go there.

I'll lead the way to you, so you'd better walk on land just the same.

Ko: And where shall we be able to settle down?

H: The mansion of Reverend To.

Ko: Huh? Are you also one of the rebels?

H: (Scoffs at her.) You've guessed right.



I also took sides with To-dono and participated in his intrigue.

I've wanted to render a meritorious deed by finding out his lady and child who were missing and been here in search of them.

I've no business with such a woman as you. Hand his child over to me and go as you like.

Ko: Oh, how unfaithful and immoral you are, Heima Yamaguchi.

I won't hand the precious child over to such a wicked warrior as you.

H: You must hand the child over to me.  
If you resist me, you'll smart for it.

Ko: What -----?

(Heima comes forward and tries to take Ryuomaru with him when Koyuki stands in his way and draws her dagger, so Heima also draws his sword and fights with her. Both of them are injured, but after all Koyuki is killed by Heima. Just then Shichiro Hagino wearing fencing gloves under his clothes



and greaves with his pleated skirt tied up and the page with his pleated skirt tied up and bare feet come out running in travelling outfits.

In <sup>no</sup>~~an~~ time, the page protects Ryuomaru while Shichiro draws his sword and stabs at Heima, who fights with Shichiro, but after all is killed by him.)

Shichiro: Inuwaka, anyway take the child over there.

Page: Certainly. Please come this way.

(The page takes Ryuomaru by the hand and runs off to the right with him.

Meanwhile, Shichiro helps Koyuki to her feet and puts his mouth to her ear.)

S: Koyuki-dono, cheer up! Koyuki -----  
Koyuki-dono, I, Shichiro, have killed Heima.

Ko: (Opens her eyes after all.) Oh, Shichiro-dono, how about the child?

S: I've surely protected the child. You're only slightly injured, so mustn't weaken nor lose your heart.

Ko: No. (Again ~~weakens~~ saying so. From within <sup>weakens</sup>)



the tea-house Katsushiro comes out stealthily with a cup in his hand.)

Katsushiro:

Excuse me, but I've a stimulant on hand. Anyway give this to her, please.

S:

Oh, thank you.

(Shichiro receives the cup from him and lets Koyuki take the stimulant from her mouth. Koyuki holds Shichiro's hands.)

Ko:

Shichiro-dono --- in future --- in future -----.

S:

Oh, of course. Both you and I have been betrothed to each other. I indulged in pleasure ~~for~~ seeking, so couldn't be in time for the disaster of our lord's house nor could save my future --- future wife from her trouble. I, Shichiro, repent of my sin, but in vain. Please forgive me.

Ko:

Oh.

(Koyuki feels her acute pain, but smiles and falls again holding Shichiro's hands.)



Thereupon Shichiro sits on the ground and sobs.

Katsushiro also sheds tears.)

K: Is there no hope of her recovery any more?

S: She's mortally wounded.

(Shakes his head.)

I should like to dispose of her dead body, but I can't do so, as I'm in a hurry. I'm sorry to trouble you, but won't you please do so in my place?

K: Alright, I'll dispose of this lady's dead body properly.

S: Oh, anyway, I'll take her body to a quiet place. (Shichiro holds Koyuki's dead body in his arms when Katsushiro helps him carry her body behind the tree at the back. Both of them place their hands together in prayer.)

S: Well, then, Commoner, look after her body, please.

K: Oh, please don't worry.

S: Ha.

(Shichiro starts going, but again casts



a backward glance at her body.

Katsushiro exchanges glances with Shichiro and both of them keep silent. Shichiro leaves keeping back his tears. From within the tea-house Jusuke and the waitress come out.)

Jusuke: No sooner had we heard that a war broke out at Yamaguchi than a fighting took place even here. We can't feel at ease now, I'm afraid.

Waitress: I feared that what would happen here just now.

(The petals of the cherry-blossoms keep on falling.)

K/ (As if talking to himself.) Up to now I've spent my days in travelling from one place to another, but wherever I went, a battle-field never ceased to exist. I've suddenly felt like going back to mama.

At my native place mama, I've a wife named Miyagi. She must be looking forward to my return.



(From the left the errand-girl comes out.)

Chidori: Hello, Katsushiro-dono! Namiiji-san has long been waiting for you. Now, come along!

(Chidori takes Katsushiro by the sleeve, so Katsushiro takes a step farther totteringly, but calmly disengages himself from her grasp on his sleeve.)

K: Oh, no, I'll go back.

C: Where are you going back?

K: I'll go back to my native place, a long way from here.

Jusuke: Huh?

(Jusuke looks at Katsushiro suspiciously. Katsushiro folds his arms and looks up at the evening sky. The petals of the cherry-blossoms fall in disorder; the sound of the evening bell is heard at a distance.)

----- Act Drop -----



## PART TWO

Mama Village, Katsushika County, Shimofusa Province; the old house on the double stage is dilapidated with its thatched eaves inclined; at the entrance there is a broken bamboo-gate; in the garden and out of the doors there grow thick autumnal plants; outside of the gate there is a large pine-tree.

Early in fall of the same year; it is dusk.

Katsushiro wearing a travelling outfit comes out with the sedge-hat in his hand.

In the light of the moon he stands looking around.

Katsushiro: Oh, this is it, this is it. This pine-tree is the very sign. However, the house is so dilapidated that there is no sign of human habitation, I'm afraid.

I'm afraid it has become a vacant house.

(Looks into the house uneasily.)

Excuse me, excuse me.

Is there nobody here?

Excuse me, excuse me.

(Shouts outside of the gate when from the interior Katsushiro's wife Miyagi, 25-6, comes out with her long hair tied at her neck though she is pale and emaciated.



Miyagi: Who are you?

Katsushiro: Is this Katsushiro's house?

M: Yes, it is.

And who are you?

K: Oh, your voice is -----.

(Both of them peer through the darkness.)

Oh, you're my wife, ain't you?

M: Huh? (Unconsciously comes down from the verandah.)

Oh, Katsushiro-done,

K: I, Katsushiro, have now come back.

M: Oh, I'm glad you've come back.

(Miyagi comes out running while Katsushiro knocks down the gate and rushes into the house. The married couple cling to each other with no word for a while.)

After a <sup>while</sup> ~~while~~ Miyagi wipes her tears and says.)

M: Oh, I'm glad you've come back.

K: Although I've been travelling from one place to another on business, here is my house, so no wonder I've come back. How are you?

(Says gently when Miyagi weeps bitterly.)

K: Well, now that I've seen you in good health, you needn't weep nor lament. I'll tell you of my travelling experience in detail later on.



Anyway, bring some water for washing my feet, please.

M: Very well.

(Miyagi goes to the interior on the right where a mound is erected, a new grave-marker, set up and a white flower, put in the pail.

Miyagi takes the flower, puts it on the verandah and brings the pail.

Katsushiro sits on the verandah, takes off his straw-sandals, and looks around washing his feet with the water.)

K: About seven years have passed since I left this house, but it's very dilapidated and looks like a den for foxes or badgers.

M: In a vacant house even foxes or badgers live. In such a dilapidated house I've been living alone for seven years, you know.

(Miyagi again weeps. Thereupon Katsushiro scratches his head shamefacedly.)

K: No wonder you've complained of it, but I've some reason for it.

(Again looks around the house.)

Anyway, it's getting dark. Won't you get ready for the light?



(So saying, he mounts the verandah and takes his seat while Miyagi throws away the water of the pail and also steps in.

In the garden the chirps of insects are heard.)

M: In this neighbourhood a war broke out four years ago and the inhabitants of this place broke up in all directions.

K: Then, you must have had a hard time of it. Happily the moon is light tonight, so it may be elegant of us to talk with each other overnight in the moonlight coming through the eaves while listening to the chirps of insects.

Well, I've seen you after a long time, so I'm at a loss what to tell you to begin with.

M: Although I've lots of things to tell you, tell me of your story in the first place, please.

K: Pardon me, my dear wife. As a matter of fact, I've forgotten about you and my native place up to now.

M: Huh?

K: In the eastern district civil wars broke out in succession since some years ago, as well, so I couldn't do my business to my satisfaction there. Thereupon I sold my farms, exchanged them for money, bought large quantities of Ashikaga silk with the money and went up to Kyo taking Jusuke as my attendant seven years ago.



H: It isn't a rare thing that a merchant makes a business trip, though. Even if you've been away at Ashikaga for a week or ten days, I feel lonesome in your absence, as I'm a woman. However, you went up to Kyo, more than one hundred miles from here, so I didn't know when you would come back, but I resigned myself to fate and spent my days in tears. Have you forgotten me -- your wife -- up to now? (weeps.)

K: I'll make a confession. Listen to me. When we got to the City as our destination, day in day out a fighting took place there, so we could do no business in the City. Thereupon we went to Mamiwa, where the same thing happened, so travelled from one place to another and reached the outskirts of Nagato, a feud of the House of Ouchi, where peace prevailed, the streets were busy and business prospered. There I could make money and thought it was paradise in this world, so I was beside myself with joy and spent my days there like in a dream.



M: Why have you come back from the place where you enjoyed yourself so much that you forget your house and wife as well as yourself?

K: Well, I could enjoy myself there only for some time and paradise turned out to be Hades after all.

On the 24th of last March, at Akamagasaki I became acquainted with a certain geisha-girl of the House of Ouchi and enjoyed my chat with her about the red-light district when suddenly a revolt was reported to have taken place, so the place was thrown into confusion like cherry-blossoms in a storm. In my very presence a fighting took place and both of them died after all. Moreover, the killed woman had her fiancé and kept on holding the man's hands until her last moment.

(Unconsciously sheds tears.) I thought it a cruel thing when suddenly I remembered my wife and native place, so although this world was a living hell, I wanted to go back to my native place and live with my faithful wife in harmony.

Thereupon I came to my senses, left the place in the night and wanted to go home as soon as possible, but, sorry to say, Jusuke suddenly



became ill on our way and at an inn of Mishu  
Mishuku beyond Hakone he ---- ..

M: Oh, did Jusuke become ill?

K: After all he also died.

(Katsushiro heaves a sigh while Miyagi weeps.)

K: Afterwards, what with his funeral services and  
what with some other things, I spent my days  
there longer than I expected to. Summer passed  
and fall came, so I hastened to return home and  
this evening I could come back here.

I felt happy and looked around, but after only  
seven years' time everything has undergone a  
change except the splash of water.

On the road I met a few people, but I knew none  
of them. Not only the village but the farms have  
become  
~~become~~ dilapidated, so I was looking ~~for~~ ~~my~~  
for my dwelling-house for some time as if I had  
been an Urashima on his way back from the Dragon  
Palace.

M: This village has undergone a great change like the  
world's change since seven years ago.

Mr. Hojo of Odawara fought with Mr. Satomi of  
Awa several times, so every year Konodai and  
Mama were at the mercy of the hoofs of war-horses.  
Moreover, due to the battles, a number of houses  
were burnt down, no man worked on the farms and



~~No~~  
~~The~~ woman in the houses weaved on a loom, so for a time it seemed to be an uninhabited village, but lately a war has been suppressed, so people who had hidden themselves in other places have gradually come back to this place.

K: What had you been doing during the time?

M: I didn't know when you would come back, so ~~how~~ how could I leave this place?

Whatever hardships I might have, I was resolved never to leave this house till my husband would come back and spent my days here while putting up with many a hard, resentful and horrible experience. Anyway, I've lived out up to today in spite of my hard life.

K: The more I hear of your hard life the more I feel ashamed of myself.

I'm glad you've been putting up with such hardships and privations and waiting for me, your unreliable husband.

Now I express my thanks to you. I'll apologize to you for my seven years' insincerity and absence like this.

Forgive me, please.

M: Although you once forget me, now that you've come back, I'm glad I've been living up to now. In this wide world there was a more unhappy



woman than I and she had returned to dust before her husband came back, I hear. Just look at this, please. (Takes the white Chinese bell-flower placed on the verandah.) There is a resentful story in connection with this flower.

K: What kind of story is it?

M: There was a man who went to another distant province on a business trip and had not returned home for several years just like you, so his wife longed for him and after about half a year's long illness joined the majority after all. (Wipes her tears.) Before she breathed her last, she uttered her last words that she wished a white Chinese bell-flower would be planted beside her grave, as her husband would probably come back in fall when <sup>the</sup> Chinese bell-flowers bloom <sup>S</sup>, so that her husband would see it as her soul. (Weeps.)

K: What a pathetic story!

By the way, did the Chinese bell-flower bloom?

M: The white flower bloomed like this.

K: And did her husband come back?



M: Well, even if he would come back, it was too late. (Again weeps.)

Her neighbors grieved over her death and lately they have started singing a song "The Song of the White Chinese Bell-Flower" in pitiful tones though I don't know who has made the song. The song is so pathetic that you'll be moved to tears even in listening to it.

K: What are the words of the song?

M: I'll sing the song if you like.

(Miyagi takes the white Chinese bell-flower and goes down to the garden hurriedly.)

M: White Chinese bell-flower as my keepsake.

SONG: "When it blooms, Autumn comes.

Although autumn comes,

He does not come."

White Chinese bell-flower planted on my grave.

SONG: "Although he does not come,

It blooms.

The flower is wet

With my tears."

(Miyagi starts dancing with the Chinese bell-flower in her hand while Katsushiro ~~xxxx~~ starts dozing over.)



K: After my long absence I've come back to my house, so I feel sleepy owing to my fatigue.

M: I'll sing the song once more, so please listen to it attentively.

SONG: "White Chinese bell-flower,  
When it blooms,  
Autumn comes.  
Although Autumn comes,  
He does not come."

SONG: "White Chinese bell-flower,  
Although he does not come,  
It blooms.  
The flower is wet  
With my tears."

(Miyagi again dances while Katsushiro dozes off.  
As soon as Miyagi goes to the grave with the Chinese bell-flower on her chest, she disappears.  
Just then the stage suddenly becomes dark and utter darkness lasts for a while.  
From the left Saichi, a villager, comes out with his daughter O-aki when the stage again gets light.

Saichi: Did you really hear voices in conversation in this empty house?



- O-aki: When I passed here a while ago, I heard a strange man's voice.
- S: Oh, how strange! Nobody is living here now, but you heard a man's voice after dusk.
- O: Wasn't it a fox or a badger?
- I've become somewhat uneasy.
- S: Oh, I don't think so. I wonder if this house has become a thief's retreat or a traveller has stepped into it for a night's stay.
- Let's peep into it to make it sure.
- (Both of them look inside of the house through the darkness.)
- O: Oh, somebody seems to be sleeping in it.
- S: Shall I wake him up anyway?
- O: But, should he be a rascal, -----.
- S: Oh, don't worry. Anyway, wait here.
- (Saichi steps into the house while O-aki keeps watch at the gate.)
- S: Oh, his straw sandals are put placed here.
- (Looks at Katsushiro's clothes.)
- Excuse me, Traveller, just wake up.
- Say, Traveller.
- (Being roused from his sleep by Saichi, Katsushiro opens his eyes after all.)



- K: Oh, I've been dozing off unconsciously.  
How about my wife? I wonder where Miyagi has gone.  
My dear wife, my dear wife.  
(Looks around.)
- S: Your wife, eh?  
(Looks at him through the darkness.)  
Oh, you're Katsushiro-dono, aren't you?
- K: Huh? (Looks at Saichi.)  
Oh, you're Saichi-dono.
- S: Yeah, I'm Saichi and lived next door to your house some years ago.  
By the way, when did you come back?
- K: I came back only an hour ago.  
What about my wife, I wonder?
- S: Do you mean Miyagi-dono?
- K: Yeah, she was here only a while ago.
- S: Do you mean to say that Miyagi-dono was here?  
You must have been dreaming of her.  
Just look closely at this house.  
You see, nobody could live in this house, which became unoccupied some years ago.
- K: Has this house become unoccupied?  
And how about my wife?
- S: I'll have to tell you a lot of sad things about your wife.



(Saichi takes a seat on the rotten bamboo verandah when O-aki also steps into the house.)

O: Katsushiro-dono, have you come back?

K: Hello, O-aki-bo!

Now you've made a fine woman though I haven't seen you only for several years.

S: Time flies like an arrow indeed.

Seven years have passed since you started on a journey and three years have already passed since Miyagi-dono went to her long home.

K: Did Miyagi die, eh?

S: Well, just look at this.

(Saichi urges Katsushiro to go to the right with him.

Thereupon Katsushiro follows him absent-mindedly; Saichi points to the mound and says.)

S: Miyagi-dono has been dead here since the fall of the year before last.

(Katsushiro gets startled with no word and only gazes at it on the ground.)

O: This neighborhood also became a battle-field, so most of people left here for some time, but only Miyagi-dono was waiting for your return and -----.



- K: Oh, was she waiting for my return?  
Go ahead!
- O: She remained here alone, but she hadn't heard from you for many years, so she longed for you so much that she became ill and spent her days about half a year in illness.  
You see what became of her after all, don't you?  
(O-aki weeps while Saichi also sheds tears.)
- S: In her last hours she called us and asked us to plant a white Chinese bell-flower beside her grave if she would die.
- K: Huh? (Gets surprised to hear it more and more.)  
I heard of it all from my dead wife just now.  
Besides, she told me of the sad story in connection with the white Chinese bell-flower.
- O: Well, then, did the ghost of Miyagi-dono appear here?
- K: Perhaps so. (Wipes his tears.)  
I'm sure she was there a while ago, though.
- S: She can't be alive.  
The soul of Miyagi-dono must have turned in her grave and said bitter things to you because of your long absence.
- K: Well, then, her soul must have been here a while ago. (Heaves a sigh.)  
Wherever I went throughout the length and breadth of Japan, I felt as if I had been in Hades, so I longed for my native place and



came back, but sorry to say, here I must have the sorrow of fall instead of the joy of spring in old days, as well.

S: Such things are inevitable in the world of human beings, I should say.

K: Exactly so.

(The three exchange glances with one another with no word. Katsushiro again heaves a sigh and looks at the grave.)

K: Without knowing of my wife's death, I'm sorry to say that I heard of the white Chinese bell-flower from her nonchalantly.

The white flower is in bloom even in the night.

O: You'd better offer it on her grave yourself.

S: If so, Miyagi-dono will be very glad in her grave, I should think.

K: For the repose of her soul ----- (Takes the Chinese bell-flower.)

I'll offer this white flower on her grave, offer up my prayers in the dewy grass and spend the night there.

(Katsushiro kneels before the grave.

Saichi and O-aki pray placing their hands together on both sides. The chirps of insects are heard lonesomely.)

----- CURTAIN -----